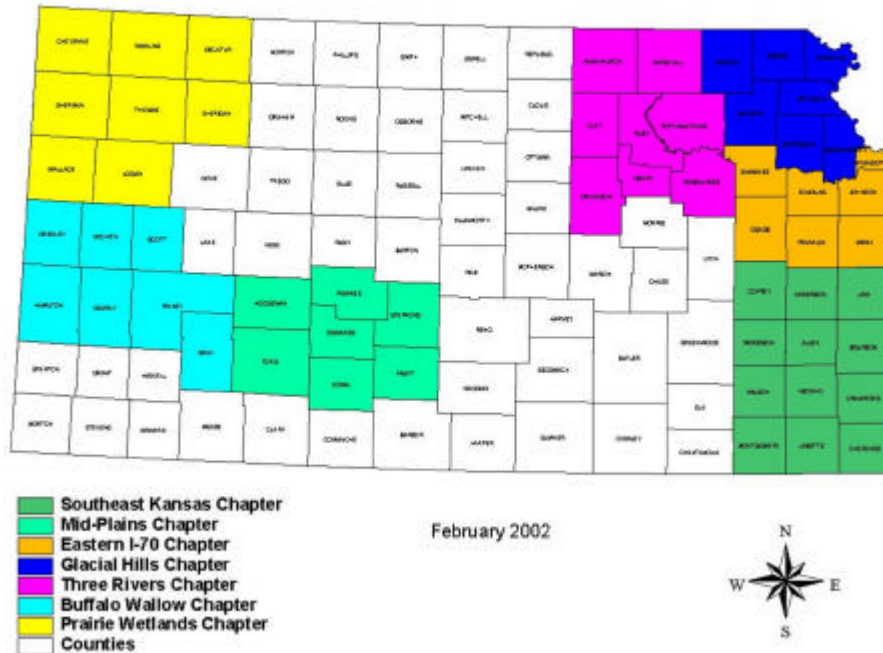


# Local Wetland and Riparian Areas Alliances

## Year Two

### July 2001 to June 2002

#### Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams



Completed through the  
**Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams**  
**P.O. Box 236**  
**McPherson, KS 67460**  
**620.241.6921**  
[www.kswetlands.org](http://www.kswetlands.org)  
**Tim Christian and John Bond, staff**

Underwritten by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
NPS-K2-001 EPA 319 Incremental Grant  
with **Pheasants Forever**

**Executive Summary:**

In an effort to promote locally-led, grass-roots alliances to address the area wetland, stream and riparian area degradation and opportunities to improve those resources and their impacts on water quality through local initiative, the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams has set a model in place to cultivate local groups through one-day seminars and subsequent follow-up meetings to organize as chapters of the organization. These chapters then develop a plan of action that includes educational activities and specific projects that will impact the natural resources within their geographic area.

To date, KAWS has organized seven such chapters (four within the project period of July 2001 to June 2002) covering over 50 percent of the state – the bulk within Unified Watershed Assessment Priority One watersheds. These grass-roots groups are operating, creating new synergies, to make an impact on the wetlands and streams within their areas through helping to find funding for quality projects and employing strategic educational venues to increase student and adult awareness of the importance of these areas, the opportunities to protect, enhance, and restore them, and how that impacts their watershed and water quality. The success of chapters is just starting to be realized as they are empowered to generate locally-driven activities.

The concept has caught on rapidly and other areas of the state are asking for KAWS to help them organize and mobilize to address local wetland, stream and riparian area issues related to water quality. KAWS looks to expand and cover most of state with chapters over the next 12-18 months. The model is so successful that other states are requesting help in organizing such a structure to help them tackle their wetland, stream, and riparian area concerns.

**Background and Introduction:**

The purpose of the project is to promote locally-led efforts for the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian buffers for water quality protection. The objectives of the project include: 1) facilitate the development of locally-designed and led workshops to provide information on the functions, values and resources available for protection of these areas to natural resource professionals; 2) support and promote the development of local wetland and riparian areas alliances that include a diverse group of landowners, conservation groups, agricultural organizations, and state and federal agencies; and 3) provide ongoing coordination, education, information and resources for local alliances to work effectively toward the protection, restoration, and establishment of wetlands and riparian buffers. The original project EPA 319 Incremental Grant was awarded by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in March 2000.

The Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), formerly known as the Kansas Wetlands and Riparian Areas Alliance (KWRAA), had held three seminars and established two chapters over the period from July 2000 to June 2001 (project year one) in the northeast corner of Kansas, all within Unified Watershed Priority 1 watersheds. They include the **Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter**, the **Glacial Hills Chapter**, and the Milford Lake Area group which organized as the **Three Rivers Chapter** in July 2001. These locally-led groups determined to call themselves chapters of KAWS and settled on a simple operating policy.

The **Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter** held their one-day seminar on November 4, 1999, in Lawrence. They completed their strategy to facilitate project implementation and conduct educational activities. Being the first group to work in this fashion, the process took some time as is normal with alliance/team building, but several key operating pieces were created such as a simple project request form, activity (educational) request form, and simplified procedures to help landowners and others get the technical and financial help they need. Currently, the Chapter is aggressively seeking projects and funding sources. A sample is the Elk Creek Marsh on Clinton Reservoir where the Chapter secured nearly \$30,000 from a variety of funding sources to complete the 30-plus acre project. A steering committee provides oversight to the diversely represented Chapter.

**Eastern I-70 Corridor Chapter meetings during the period**

6/5/01; 9/25/01; 11/14/01; 1/16/02; 3/12/02

The **Glacial Hills Chapter** held their organizational meeting on May 31, 2000, and held subsequent sessions to organize. They defined their strategy and have adopted a number of the operating pieces created by the I-70 group.

Projects comprise a big portion of their plan of action. The Chapter has diverse membership including the Sac and Fox, Kickapoo and Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation, and they are continually bringing new partners into the process. They have helped find funding for the Lake Nemaha wetland, they have secured \$15,000 for a wetland project at the Sac and Fox Tribe Casino, and they have secured \$5,000 for a wetland project on Perry Reservoir on land managed by the local Pheasants Forever Chapter. They sponsored the 2001 KAWS NE Chapter Fall Tour inviting the other two chapters to participate in a well-planned event.

### **Glacial Hills Chapter meetings during the period**

7/25/01; 9/25/01; 12/13/01; 2/7/02; 4/18/02; 6/20/02



The Glacial Hills Chapter hosted the first NE KS Fall Tour on September 25 attended by over 50 people from the three chapters in NE Kansas. This site is a riparian buffer planted on the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation land.



The **Three Rivers Chapter** held their one-day seminar in mid-October 2000. This was our third chapter to organize as of July 2001. They adopted key components of their operating structure and identified actions to help get projects completed as they were organizing. They have a number of projects in the planning and construction phases including the Little Blue River Krainbill stream stabilization project. The Chapter has hosted rural and urban tours and educational events to promote sound management of these areas.

### **Three Rivers Chapter meetings during the period**

7/10/01; 9/25/01; 11/8/01; 1/17/02; 4/11/02

The amount of energy and work created provided the opportunity to add a second staff person to service existing chapters in the eastern portion of the state. The level of support is such that the Eastern I-70, Glacial Hills, and Three Rivers Chapters requested localized coordinator help in their plans of

action for 2001-2002 year. The situation was such that the chapters required a higher level of support as additional requests come in, projects come on-line, and the public relations and communications opportunities expand.

Additionally, strong interest in organizing chapters continues across the state as others learn of the potential in organizing under KAWS. KAWS estimated that additional four or five chapters could be organized over the next 24 months. Most, if not all of these fall in Priority 1 FFY 99 watersheds. Those watersheds include the balance of the Lower Republican-Kansas Basin (Marshall, Pottawatomie, and Wabaunsee counties...now a part of the Three Rivers Chapter), the Lower Marais des Cygnes, the Upper Neosho/Marmaton, the Walnut, and the Lower Arkansas. The current grant implementation schedule included both the Little Arkansas and the Upper Arkansas basins in addition to the three seminars completed. Our original project application spelled out that we would conduct at least four seminars to cultivate local alliances. Three were conducted within the first project year. Those named above provided the potential for five more seminars to be conducted over the remaining two years of the project span. To meet the growing need and demand, KAWS hired a chapter coordinator to support the existing chapters in the east and to help cultivate new chapters.

Over the period of July 2001 to June 2002, four additional chapters have been cultivated and are actively engaged in project solicitation and educational activities. These include the **Prairie Wetlands Chapter** covering northwest Kansas, the **Buffalo Wallow Chapter** covering the upper Arkansas River, the **Mid-Plains Chapter** covering the middle Arkansas River, and the **Southeast Kansas Chapter** covering the Marais des Cygnes, Neosho, Marmaton, and Verdigris Rivers.

The KAWS Chapters developed to date, excluding Prairie Wetlands, fall primarily or completely within the Unified Watershed Assessment priority one watersheds.

#### **Hydrologic Unit Codes – 8 Digit**

##### **Eastern I-70 Corridor**

10270104, 10300101, 10290101, 10290108, 10270102

##### **Glacial Hills**

10240007, 10240008, 10240005, 10240011, 10270103, 10270102

##### **Three Rivers**

10270207, 10250017, 10270205, 10270102, 10270101, 10260008

##### **Prairie Wetlands**

10260009

##### **Buffalo Wallow**

11030001, 11030003, 11040007, 11030006

## **Mid-Plains**

11030004, 11030009, 11030010, 11030014, 11030015, 11060005

## **Southeast Kansas**

10290102, 11070204, 10290103, 10290104, 11070201, 11070103, 11070105, 11070106, 11070107

## **Goals, Objectives, and Activities:**

### **Smoky Hill, Solomon, Upper Republican River group -**

The planning group organized and held a one-day seminar on March 28, 2001 in Bird City with over 40 people attending. A subsequent June 8 meeting yielded the **Prairie Wetlands Chapter** formed and they began developing their plan of action. An early responsibility the Chapter took on was orchestrating the sixth annual KWRAA Fall Tour on October 29, 2001 in the Colby area. The Chapter has built an action list and filed for funding through the Playa Lakes Joint Venture to retire playas from active farming through a long-term ( up to 10 years) lease program. The proposal was funded in January 2002 and the Chapter has helped enroll nearly 75 acres in this pilot project to date. KDWP is helping financially as is the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Chapter's project list continues to expand for the Wetlands Reserve Program, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, the Riparian and Wetlands Protection Program, and other funding sources.

### **Prairie Wetlands Chapter meetings during the period**

7/13/01; 10/29/01; 2/27/02; 5/22/02



Leonard Hopper, KDWP, (photo to left) explains how farmers enroll in an annual playa easement program through a local Pheasants Forever chapter to the seminar attendees in Bird City on March 28, 2001.



Keith Kisner, NRCS, lower left of photo discusses potential for helping ranchers protect riparian areas such as the one shown by moving livestock wintering/feeding/calving operations to upland sites that are protected. A variety of options exist to help ranchers better manage their riparian and stream areas.

### **Middle (Upper) Ark River group -**

Over 30 people attended a one-day seminar on August 29, 2001, at St. John's Parrish Hall in Spearville to hear and see what opportunities exist for

wetlands and riparian area projects in the Middle Arkansas River. The invitation list covered stakeholders from Edwards, Ford, Hodgeman, Pawnee, and Stafford counties.

**Ron Temaats**, USDA NRCS for Ford County, welcomed the group. **Tim Christian** provided an overview of the purpose of the session and background on KAWS. The slate of morning speakers included:

**Rick Davis**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Water, NPS Section, Topeka, KS, who described the programs and opportunities through the Clean Water Neighbor and Stream Steward Programs to receive cost-share help to put in projects. He covered the state and federal agencies available to help technically and financially. Davis talked about the value of partnering to complete wetland and riparian area projects and how KAWS can help get local groups, individuals, and agencies together to discuss the potential for working together.

**Phil Balch**, State Conservation Commission, Topeka, KS, covered the details of the SCC Riparian and Wetlands Protection Program. He noted that conservation districts need to have approved RWPP plans to provide cost-share help to landowners. He highlighted funding levels and the types of projects that have been completed over the past few years. No one within this (invited counties) area has an approved RWPP plan, so that is the first step to getting this help. Balch did note that he has provided on-site help to several in the region.

**Ken Sherraden**, State Conservation Commission/NRCS, Salina, KS, discussed his recent appointment made jointly by NRCS and SCC to serve as buffer coordinator for SCC. He outlined his duties and how he can work with conservation districts and others on promoting conservation buffers through the Governor's Water Quality Buffer Initiative. He also discussed the recent grants from the Kansas Buffer Partnership offered to 25 conservation districts to hire part-time employees to sell buffers door-to-door. He noted upcoming training for those employees.



(Left) **Ron Temaats**, NRCS district conservationist in Dodge City, explains the details of a riparian improvement along a creek near Spearville as a part of the one-day seminar tour that launched the Mid-Plains Chapter. (Right) **Scotty Baugh**, KDWP, describes the benefits of protecting playas as illustrated here at the Stein Playa, an area managed by the Department. Another stop on the Spearville tour.



**Scotty Baugh**, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Dodge City, KS, discussed the organization, mission, and purpose for the **Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV)**. The JV is authorized under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and serves to promote waterfowl (and other wildlife) habitat enhancement through information and education activities and through funding projects through their grant program. PLJV covers parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico.

The PLJV Board has approval authority for grant applications up to \$25,000 for wetlands and riparian areas enhancement, restoration, and creation. Those funds come from Phillips Petroleum, long-time supporters of the JV. Grants over \$25,000 must be approved through the PLJV Board and then go to the national committee for final approval.

PLJV is looking for proposals from individuals, agencies, organizations, and would particularly prefer to have them come from a local work group or alliance. He stressed the need for local folks to determine what projects have priority and elevate them to the JV working committee for consideration. Baugh highlighted some changes in Joint Venture structure, including expansion that has evolved through the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) and North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). All of Kansas will be covered by a joint venture and non-game funds (not just migratory bird money) would be available through the JV to complete habitat work, education, and a number of other needed tasks. He noted that **Joe Kramer**, KDWP, and **Barth Crouch**, Pheasants Forever, are Board members and **Tim Christian** serves as chairman of the Board's Education Outreach Team.

**Dennis Haag**, Tetra Tech EMI, Lenexa, KS, covered the value and function of wetlands and riparian areas in rural and urban settings. He discussed the development/expansion of European settlement and its effects on the landscape, particularly these areas. He illustrated how most farmers, ranchers, municipalities, developers and others deal with wetlands and riparian zones through traditional engineering approaches – straightening, lining, filling, etc. Dennis showed maps reflecting changes in these areas within Overland Park, KS, over the past 25-30 years.

He spoke of the importance and difference in the function and values of wetlands and riparian areas. He highlighted a real estate development project in the southeast part of Overland Park near the Blue River where he and his company are involved in a wetland mitigation bank.

Dennis encouraged attendees to think creatively about designing wetlands and riparian areas into future developments and to rethink ways to improve existing developed areas.

**Craig Curtis**, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Dodge City, KS, offered his insight into wetland development considerations. He discussed the importance of these seasonally wet areas for a variety of waterfowl, other birds, mammals and other vertebrates, and invertebrates, plus plants. His

interest is helping to restore wetlands and protect those that are being properly managed now. He covered several programs that provide financial incentives. He and Scotty Baugh discussed the Herron Playa project and provided information that was used on the tour.

**Troy Bratton**, K-State Extension and Research Forestry, Dodge City, KS, provided a multi-faceted presentation on design considerations for riparian buffers. He described the need, the three-zone concept, the components, species selection, buffer widths and other factors used to install buffers. He expanded on the benefits of woody plants, soil considerations, and stressed the fact that streams are complex living systems requiring them to be managed on a watershed (systems) approach. He noted that one key practice to help alleviate livestock concentrations in riparian areas during the winter months is to work with ranchers to plant livestock windbreaks on upland sites.

**Tom Flowers**, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Cons. Service, Meade, KS, offered an overview of the SCC's Riparian and Wetlands Protection Program and how Meade County has used it. He outlined how the conservation district developed their plan, what components they included, partnerships they developed, and projects they have completed with RWPP funds. He discussed the opportunities to use RWPP to complete projects that may not fit other programs and noted that they had never had a project declined from SCC. Flowers noted the types of projects, which included brush control of tamarisk and Russian olive along the Cimarron River, brush control of sagebrush on uplands near streams to improve grass cover, and installing solar-powered watering facilities and fencing to better distribute grazing and keep cattle from hanging in riparian areas.

After lunch, the group toured the Stein Playa located north and west of Spearville. It is a KDWP managed property. **Scotty Baugh** highlighted the acquisition and current management on the playa. The next stop was to see how the township and county are working to protect the road and provide for riparian protection. **Ron Temaatt** led the discussion at this site. This site was south and west of Spearville. The last tour site was the Herron Playa where **Baugh** and **Curtis** described the project. The group made two stops to view the project area. The Herron Playa is another KDWP managed property with acquisitions from several landowners over the past few years. NRCS is working on engineering wetland cells with water control structures. The area will provide significant flood control when the system is in place.



Scotty Baugh, Craig Curtis, and Bob Mosier discuss the options for a wetland development just outside Greensburg, KS at the May meeting of the Mid-Plains Chapter.

**Mid-Plains Chapter meetings during the period 8/29/01; 10/26/01; 1/9/02; 3/12/02; 5/7/02**

### **Western Upper Ark group -**

Just over 40 people attended a (similar to Spearville) one-day seminar at Fynnup Foundation Educational Center in Garden City on August 30, 2001, to hear and see what opportunities exist for wetlands and riparian area projects in seven counties in the Upper Arkansas River. The invitation list covered stakeholders from **Finney, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Kearny, Scott, and Wichita** counties.

**Andy Larson**, Finney County Conservation District chairman, welcomed the group. As at Spearville, **Tim Christian** provided an overview of the purpose of the session and background on KWRAA. The slate of morning speakers was identical to the Spearville session except that **Barth Crouch**, Pheasants Forever and Playa Lakes Joint Venture Board, Salina, KS, provided the Playa Lakes Joint Venture presentation and **Dan Baffa**, Garden City Zoo and Upper Arkansas River Basin Advisory Committee, Garden City, KS, discussed several proposed projects to promote water-based recreation along the Arkansas River near Garden City. He outlined the history of a Corps of Engineers project to build a reservoir and resulting options. He noted that the River is experiencing bank and streambed degradation due to a variety of factors including fluctuating water levels, surface mining of gravel, and long-term agricultural water uses. He expressed interest in identifying and seeking funding for enhancements to the River in and near Garden City. Dan discussed the Basin Advisory Committee and their work.



Bob Price explains how he has used excess water from irrigation to create unique wetlands on his property. He has built numerous cells across his property to catch water, hold it for wildlife and water quality filtering before it finds its way into the Arkansas River near Deerfield. Price's site was one of several stops on the tour in conjunction with the Garden City one-day seminar.

After lunch, the group toured a farmed playa north of Garden City noting the value of leaving playas in a farmed condition due to successional plant opportunities. Then, the group stopped at the **Bob Price** ranch near Deerfield to see his wetland cell projects; **Mark Sexson** provided a brief overview. Price uses seepage flow from a nearby irrigation reservoir to water his cells. He has water control structures on each dike and regulates the amount of water held seasonally. He uses the area for personal and fee hunting and some fishing in the deeper water facilities. Most of the work has

been done over the past 20 years with help from KDWP and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The last stop was along the Arkansas River near the buffalo pasture managed by KDWP. **Mark Sexson**, KDWP, and **Dan Baffa**, GC Zoo led the discussion on historical problems and challenges to stabilization. **Phil Balch**, SCC, provided some potential alternatives to treating the stream bank erosion and encroachment and stabilizing the stream channel.

Dan Baffa, left, and Mark Sexson explain the dynamics of the Arkansas River and the changes to its streambed that have occurred over time. The River threatens a county road near this point as well as state-owned property. The discussion ensued on how to protect and stabilize areas such as this along the River. The stop was one of several as a part of the one-day seminar tour for the Upper Ark group now known as the Buffalo Wallow Chapter.



After holding one-day seminars in Spearville and Garden City in August 2001, followup organizational meetings with two groups of stakeholders resulted in two, seven-county chapters organizing. These included the **Mid-Plains** covering Edwards, Ford, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Pawnee, Pratt and Stafford counties, and the **Buffalo Wallow**, covering Finney, Greeley, Gray, Hamilton, Kearny, Scott, and Wichita counties. Recent meetings for both Chapters, held in January and March, have provided the format for members to determine several priority activities. Educational actions and potential projects are under consideration for technical and financial support.

At the March **Mid-Plains** meeting, **Phil Balch** and **Brock Emmert**, SCC, provided a stream restoration presentation to attendees, followed by a tour of several potential restoration sites along the Arkansas River. **Ken Sherraden**, NRCS/SCC, highlighted buffer activities in the area, too.

On a blustery March day in Lakin, the **Buffalo Wallow** members heard from **Dennis Haag**, Tetra Tech EM, on creative, innovative, and cost-effective methods to deal with storm water runoff and managing wastes for municipalities. He noted work being done across the central U.S. and as close to home as Topeka and Kansas City.

### **Buffalo Wallow Chapter meetings during the period**

8/30/01; 10/25/01; 1/10/02; 3/19/02; 5/8/02

### **Marais des Cynes/Neosho/Verdigris River group –**

The Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams in coordination with See-Kan RC&D, held a one-day seminar at the Community Center in Chanute to determine interest among stakeholders in starting a new chapter covering the southeast portion of the state.

Two of the tour stops along the Neosho/Verdigris one-day seminar held on December 11, 2001. First (below) is a stream stabilization project on the Neosho River, and (right) several attendees check out a water control structure used in managing a wetland cell near Erie, KS.



The December 11, 2001 meeting had a great turnout, with over 50 people from many different agencies, groups, individuals, and organizations. The targeted area for this chapter is Coffey, Anderson, Linn, Woodson, Allen, Bourbon, Wilson, Neosho, Crawford, Montgomery, Labette and Cherokee counties.

The meeting began with **Tim Christian**, KAWS state coordinator, McPherson, providing background on the Alliance and its planned activities. Additionally, he explained the Kansas Water Office EPA Wetlands Grant as well as the Governor's Water Quality Buffer Initiative. Tim was followed by **Dennis Haag**, Tetra Tech EMI, Lenexa, who spoke on the functions and values of wetlands.

Next up was **Rick Davis**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, providing an update on KDHE programs and how they fit into the KAWS activities. The group then heard about the program details for the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program from **Bob Culbertson**, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks biologist, Emporia. Culbertson is assigned to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Then, **Bob Atchison**, Kansas Forest Service, Manhattan, talked about the state forestry programs and how they fit into wetland and riparian protection projects. **John Bond**, KAWS chapter coordinator, Topeka, finished off the morning with a short update on the Joint Venture program administered by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. He explained the need to put a list of projects together for the river basins covered within this area for possible funding through the KWO-EPA Wetlands Protection Program Grant.

The grant has earmarked about \$160,000 for educational demonstration projects right now as a part of an overall implementation plan.

After lunch, the group toured three sites in the Chanute area. The first two sites were hosted by **Gerald Gray**, USDA NRCS district conservationist for Allen County. The first site demonstrated a good stabilization project, which used rock weirs and an upland buffer to stabilize a bank along the Neosho River. The second site was a 20-acre wetland project that showed how a wetland could be established with several partners and a minimal amount of funding. The third site was shown to the group by **Bob Culbertson**, who explained how the WRP program could be used to set aside large tracts of land (1,000-plus acres) and use certain strategies to reduce development costs. All three were good examples of projects that could be completed by partners throughout the state.

At a followup meeting on January 31, 2002, the group chose to move forward and organized as the seventh chapter of KAWS. The **Southeast Kansas Chapter** is rapidly getting its feet wet and the group hosted the KAWS sixth annual meeting, May 15-16, 2002.

### **Southeast Kansas Chapter meetings during the period**

12/11/01; 2/1/02; 3/28/02; 5/15/02; 6/27/02

### ***Impacts on the Landscape and in the Community:***

Each chapter maintains its own plan of action and project list. Chapters have completed numerous educational activities including water festival exhibits, displays, and underwriting teacher educational training. Increased awareness of the function and value of these areas has resulted, as has a heightened awareness of how these resources impact overall water quality within the watershed.

Projects include the Clinton Reservoir Wildlife Management Area Elk Creek wetland complex, Krainbill stream stabilization on the Little Blue River, the playa easement program in 31 western counties, and numerous others.

Currently, chapter spreadsheets hold over two million dollars worth of high quality wetland and stream projects on hand as they look for funding and technical help.

Agency staff – state and federal- are seeing value in joint working relations, local governments – city and county - are taking a hard look at how they can employ wetland and stream protection and enhancement techniques to help them meet regulation and improve community quality of life concerns, and individual landowners and private interests are coming to the table increasingly to find out how they can solve their resource concerns through a locally-led group.

Momentum is expanding rapidly as people hear how organized chapters are able to create synergies and find resources to get projects completed. The model is so successful that it is being investigated for use in other states.

Additionally, as KAWS continues to expand its locally-led grass-roots efforts, the following actions are in process at the conclusion of this project period.

**Upper Marais des Cynges/Verdegris/Walnut River group –**

As of early June 2002, John Bond held an organizational meeting to plan a one-day seminar on October 2 to initiate the chapter-building process in this area.

**Lower/Little Arkansas River group -**

Plans are developed to hold an organizational meeting in August to plan the one-day seminar for this area later in the fall. Tim Christian is presenting to a group of interested agencies and organizations on July 25 which will serve as the springboard for this chapter development.

KAWS has plans to move into the Cimarron River basin and at least one other basin area during 2002-2003 in addition to the two listed above. We are actively seeking out a variety of traditional and non-traditional funding sources and technical help for projects and education.

**Conclusions, Recommendations, Lessons Learned:**

With the rapid increase in the interest and number of locally-led chapters, the expanding lists of projects and educational venues, and the significance of water quality impacts (e.g. studies made by Phil Balch, SCC, on the sediment and nutrient loading occurring in the Little Blue River) made through wetland, stream and riparian area projects it seems logical to continue cultivating and empowering KAWS chapters to get at local issues. The focus has been established and with adequate staff and financial support, the benefits/results will cascade over coming months and years. The essence of organizing a non-governmental, non-political locally-driven group to identify, stratigize, and implement a sound plan to address wetland and stream/water quality concerns works. It takes time and concerted efforts by locals (and by KAWS staff) to build the foundation from which to operate, but the results yielded will prove to be cost-effective and resource-positive. An obvious need is for funds to complete projects, small and large, and funds for coordination. Technical help in getting projects installed is becoming a limiting factor as existing agency staff and others are not available (not priority) or trained to do the planning, design, and post-project work.

## Financial

Section 319	Match( cash and in-kind)	Total
\$79,490	\$53,000	\$132,490

## Acknowledgements

Financial assistance for this project has been provided through EPA – Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant C9007405 through an agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Other partners contributing to KAWS efforts include the State Conservation Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever, Tetra Tech EMI, K-State Research and Extension Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, Kansas Council of RC&D's, US Army Corps of Engineers, George Butler Associates, Kansas Biological Survey, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Kaw Nation, Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation, and Westar as well as the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Phillips Petroleum, and the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture.

The Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), formerly the Kansas Wetlands and Riparian Areas Alliance (KWRAA), organized in 1996 as a response to the need to provide quality informational and educational materials to a variety of audiences on the functions and values of wetlands and riparian areas; to demonstrate how they could be enhanced, restored, and protected; and to encourage closer cooperation between agencies, organizations, and groups that deal with these valuable natural areas.

**KAWS Mission:** To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape

**KAWS Vision:** A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands, streams, and riparian areas in Kansas

KAWS addresses both rural and urban watersheds realizing the continuing needs and previously missed opportunities to help people make the most of their wetlands and riparian areas. Our philosophy — to build local capacity through local and regional alliances that get projects “on the ground.” In concert, we are working to institute a “customer-friendly” delivery system. KAWS is made up of over 100 member agencies, businesses, and organizations as well as nearly 200 individuals.